



THE DOCTOR

METALIC MEDICINES.

MEDICAL

NEWS-PAPER;

OR,

AND



THE PHYSICIAN.

VEGETABLE MEDICINES.

"The Lord hath created Medicines out of the Earth:—With such doth he heal Men, and taketh away their PAINS."—ECCLES. XXXVIII. 4, 7.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 5, 1822.

No. 2.

POISON.—No. 1.

The word Poison, in the Scriptures, is always in the singular, and of course is one thing only. There are three kinds of Poison: mineral, vegetable, and animal. This is a subject of great importance at the present time; as multitudes are told that *Poison* is needful, and that some kinds of *Poison*, are the best medicine for sick people.

The following account of Poison, and the experiments upon animals, with its operation, is from the Edinburgh Encyclopedia, vol. xv. page 265, article POISON.

[Our readers are requested to pay particular attention to what is communicated in this number, and to what may hereafter be presented in following numbers.]

This work gives the following description of Poison.

"POISON, is any substance which proves destructive to the life of animals in a small quantity, either taken by the mouth, mixed with the blood, or applied to the nerves.

"Of poisons there are many different kinds, which are exceedingly various in their operations. The mineral poisons, as arsenic and corrosive mercury, seem to attack the solid parts of the stomach, and to produce death by eroding its substance; the antimonials seem rather to attack the nerves, and to kill by throwing the whole system into convulsions; and in this manner also most of the vegetable poisons seem to operate. All of these, however, seem to be inferior in strength to the poisons of some of the more deadly kinds of serpents, which operate so suddenly that the animal bit by them will be dead before another that had swallowed arsenic would be affected.

"In the Philosophical Transactions, No. 335, we have a number of experiments which show the effects of many different poisons

upon animals; from whence it appears, that many substances which are not at all accounted poisonous, yet prove as certainly fatal when mixed with the blood as even the poison of rattlesnakes, or the ticusas itself. An ounce of emetic wine, being injected into the jugular vein of a large dog, produced no effect for a quarter of an hour. At the expiration of that space he became sick, had a continual vomiting, and evacuation of some hard excrements by stool. By these evacuations he seemed to be somewhat relieved; but soon grew uneasy, moved from place to place and vomited again. After this he laid himself down on the ground pretty quietly; but his rest was disturbed by a return of his vomiting, and his strength greatly decreased.—An hour and a half after the operation he appeared half dead, but was greatly revived by having some warm broth poured down his throat with a funnel. This, however, proved only a temporary relief; for in a short time the vomiting returned, he made urine in great quantity, howled miserably, and died in convulsions. A dram and a half of sal ammoniac dissolved in an ounce and an half of water, and injected into the jugular vein of a dog, killed him with convulsions almost instantly. The same effect followed from injecting a dram of salt of tartar dissolved in an ounce of warm water; but a dram and an half of common salt injected into the jugular produced little other bad consequences than a temporary thirst. A dram of purified white vitriol, injected into the crural vein of a dog, killed him immediately. Fifteen grains of salt of urine dissolved in an ounce of water, and injected into the crural vein of a dog, threw him into such violent convulsions that he seemed to be dying; nevertheless he recovered from a second dose, though not without a great deal of difficulty; but an ounce of urine made by a man fasting, produced no bad effect. Diluted aquafortis injected into the jugular and crural vein of a dog killed him immediately by conagulating the blood.—Oil of sulphur (containing some quantity of

the volatile vitriolic acid) did not kill a dog after repeated trials. On the contrary, as soon as he was let go, he ran into all the corners of the room searching for meat; and having found some bones, he fell a gnawing them with strange avidity, as if the acid, by injection into his veins, had given him a better appetite. Another dog who had oil of tartar injected into his veins, swelled and died, after suffering great torment. His blood was found florid, and not coagulated. A dram and a half of spirit of salt diluted with water, and injected into the jugular vein of a dog, killed him immediately. In the right ventricle of the heart the blood was found partly grumous and concreted into harder clots than ordinary, and partly frothy. Warm vinegar was injected without doing any manifest harm. Two drams of sugar dissolved into an ounce of water were injected into the jugular vein of a dog without any hurt.

"These are the results of the experiments where saline substances were injected into veins. Many acrids proved equally fatal.—A decoction of two drams of white hellebore, injected into the jugular vein of a dog, killed him like a stroke of lightning. Another dog was killed in a moment by an injection of an ounce of rectified spirit of wine in which a dram of camphor was dissolved. Ten drams of highly rectified spirit of wine, injected into the crural vein of a dog, killed him in a very short time; he died quickly, and licking his jaws with his tongue, as if with pleasure. In the vena cava and right ventricle of the heart the blood was coagulated into a great many little clots. Three drams of rectified spirit of wine injected into the crural vein of a small dog made him apoplectic, and as it were half dead. In a little time he recovered from the apoplexy, and became giddy; and, when he endeavoured to go, reeled and fell down. Though his strength increased by degrees, yet his drunkenness continued.—His eyes were red and fiery; and his sight so dull that he scarce seemed to take notice of any thing; and when he was beat, he

he would scarce move. However, in four hours he began to recover, and would eat bread when offered him; the next day he was out of danger. Five ounces of strong white wine injected into the crural vein of a dog made him very drunk for a few hours, but did not produce any other consequences. An ounce of strong decoction of tobacco injected into a vein killed a dog in a very short time in terrible convulsions. Ten drops of oil of sage rubbed with half a dram of sugar, and thus dissolved in water, did no harm by being injected into the blood.

(To be Continued.)

Religion, connected with disease, medicine and physicians.

From some cause, just or unjust, some people think that a physician or doctor, ought to be an irreligious man; and some would give us to understand, that it is quite out of order for a preacher to be a physician; as two such branches, are too much for one man, or contrary to each other. To set this subject in a fair light, we will shew how they stand in the scriptures; how they stand together in the sick; and the advantages peculiar to a preacher in administering medicine, and preaching the gospel.

Under the law of Moses, the priests only had the power of healing diseases, particularly the leprosy. Elisha was a prophet and physician. He ordered Naaman to wash seven times in Jordan, which cured him of the leprosy.

The prophet Isaiah was a preacher and physician. When king Hezekiah was sick, and expected to die, this prophet directed medicine which cured him. Isa. chap. 38. 21. "For Isaiah had said, let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaster upon the boil, and he shall recover."

Jesus Christ was a PREACHER and Physician. How beautifully are these two things described by him, in Matthew xi. 4, 5. "Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see; the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them." Here is surely the preacher and physician. The whole of the public life of Jesus was spent in doing good to the minds and bodies of men. Peter describes him as the preacher and physician. Acts x. 38. "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power, who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil." The apostles were preachers and physicians. Matthew x. 7, 8. "And, as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils."

It may be said that they healed by a miracle—true; and if a preacher can cure with

medicines, must he forbear, because he cannot do it by a miracle? Judge ye. It is certain from the New Testament, that one of the apostles was a physician. Col. iv. 14. "Luke the beloved physician, and Demas greet you."

It is evident from the scriptures, that the Elders in the Churches were physicians as well as preachers, and that they administered the medicines in use at that day. James v. 14, 15. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the Elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." That oil was used as a medicine at that time, is plain from the conduct of the Samaritan, a physician, who poured in oil and wine to cure the man wounded by the thieves.

There are several instances in this and other countries, where preachers of the gospel have been, and are physicians, and who have done well in the ministration of medicine and the word of life.

There are no two classes of men more respected than good ministers, and skillful, tender hearted physicians, and when one man attends to both, how much more must he be valued by the sick and distressed!

These two things are together in the sick man. His body needs relief, and his mind instruction, comfort, and encouragement.—He needs to be directed to hope in God, trust in the great Physician, and look by faith to that state where there shall be no pain, sickness, nor death.

In the time of sickness, a preacher who administers medicine, has an opportunity to hold up the Saviour, and shew the two subjects of sin and disease, health and holiness, as contained in the words of Christ. "The whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

When ministers are physicians, they have an opportunity to be more useful than otherwise, and also to be more industrious. I sincerely think that a man who spends his whole time, only to deliver two short discourses in a week, is almost an useless being. You will often see such an one, fair, delicate, neat, free from lint on his coat, often dining out, taking tea here and there, and appearing like one quite at leisure.

A preacher once objected to a man being a preacher and physician, as one was opposite to the other; but when he had an opportunity to set in the *State House*, week after week, at two dollars per day, he made no objection to doing it, though his business there was as opposite to preaching, as law and gospel.

This must suffice at present; should it be found needful, we will resume the subject hereafter, as occasion may require.

Physic and Metaphysic.

A very honest, religious, well meaning lady, not of the greatest ability, either natural or acquired, heard a preacher deliver a discourse upon metaphysics. After hearing the discourse, with which she was remarkably well pleased, though she did not understand it, drew the following conclusion; that *physic* was medicine for the body, and *metaphysic*, medicine for the soul; and from this argued the greatness of the D. D. above the M. D. and that of course it was beneath the dignity of a D. D. to be a,—*physician*.

Wonderful, if true.

In ancient times, in times of ignorance and bigotry, it was thought that if a mother used water about a child's face, no more could be done than barely to cleanse it. If a minister used water about the child's face, a little on the forehead would go through the skin, skull, brain, and even the heart; take away original sin, regenerate the child, make it a member of Christ, a child of God, and an heir of the kingdom of heaven! What wonders water once did, when the priest had the handling of it!

In later times, this mystery is revealed, and found to be false; but another wonder yet exists. If a child or grown person happens through mistake or design to take a dose of mercury, opium, laudanum, or nitre, the child is poisoned! the house is alarmed, the Doctor is called to remove the poison, and save the child's life! Should the child be sick in the ordinary way, the Doctor is called; and wonderful to relate, the same poison by the skill of the Doctor is converted into the best of medicine, and is the only thing which can save the life of the child or man. Mercury, nitre, opium and antimony is freely used; yet after all how often do they die! If these things endanger our lives when taken by accident, their nature can never be changed by being called medicine, and administered by such as are called men of great skill.

ANECDOTE.

A certain preacher was called to visit one of his hearers, sick of a fever. As he entered the room, he observed a large phial of laudanum on the table, which her Doctor had directed to be taken at certain times, &c. After mentioning her situation, &c. she thus addressed him,—“Sir, I wish you to pray with me, and to pray that the Lord would bless the means used for my recovery to health.” That I cannot do, said the preacher “Why?” said the woman, in a surprise! Because, said he, there is laudanum enough in that phial to kill two or three men, and I cannot pray God to turn that into medicine, which would kill a well man if taken.

It is impossible in the nature of things, that supposed medicine, which would kill a well man, can cure one that is sick.

Dr. Thacher's Dispensatory.

I am much pleased to learn by the public papers, that Messrs. *Richardson & Lord*, of this town, have lately printed a new edition of this valuable work; which it is hoped will be more generally known by the people of this country.

This book contains two things of great value to Americans. 1. It faithfully describes the horrible properties of mineral and vegetable poison, such as mercury, arsenic, nitre, antimony, foxglove, garden hemlock, &c.—It also states the mischief done by minerals, to the miners, and such as take them instead of medicine.

2. This book describes a great number of excellent herbs, barks, roots, seeds, &c. If this book is attended to by the people, it will save thousands of dollars, now paid for mineral and vegetable poison, and, perhaps many valuable lives.

ANECDOTE.

It is said that a young man having finished his studies upon fashionable minerals, opium, blistering, issues, setons, &c. set out in search for a place. On his way, he met an old man, a quaker, with whom he had been acquainted. Sir, said the young man, how shall I make the people know I am a Doctor? 'I will tell thee friend; when thou has found a place, I advise thee to buy about a dozen ducks, and they will tell the people where thou art, for they will constantly say, *quack! quack! quack!* and by this, the people will all find thee.'

"The Pharmacopæia of the United States of America. By the authority of the Medical Societies and Colleges"

This book was printed in the year 1820. The following is found on the first leaf, back of the title page.

"In the general Medical Convention, held, in the capitol of Washington, January, 1820. Resolved, That Lyman Spalding, Thomas T. Hewson, Eli Ives, Elisha H. Butts, Jacob Bigelow, be constituted a Committee, whose duty it shall be to prepare for the press the National Pharmacopæia, agreed on in this Convention.

"SAMUEL L. MITCHELL, President.

"THOS. T. HEWSON, Secretary."

An English scholar, on reading this book, might fancy himself in the valley with Ezekiel, and be led to say, "and lo, there were very many bones, and lo, they were very dry."

On the 27th page, the book tells us of "A catalogue of simple medicines, together with some prepared medicines, which are kept in the shop of the apothecary, but are not necessarily prepared by him."

From the manner in which this book is printed, we are led to conclude that the design

of it is, to keep the apothecary ignorant of the medicine he prepares to sell, or keeps prepared by others for that purpose.

Dr. Thacher tells us of what the medicines are prepared, how they are to be used, and what they are given for; this is the opposite. It gives us the mineral or vegetable in latin, and how to prepare on one page, and the same on the opposite page in English. Thus, for example.

Pills of arsenic, or rats-bane,—page 176 and 7.

"Pilula Arsenici. R. Acidi arseniosi grana duo. Opii in pulverum triti grana octo. Saponis grana viginti duo. Subige in massum, et divide in pilulas triginta duas."

On the opposite the same is in English, thus:

"Pills of Arsenic. Take of arsenious acid, two grains. Opium in powder, eight grains. Castile soap, twenty-two grains.—Form a mass and divide into thirty-two pills."

There is nothing said here as to the use of these pills, so that the apothecary and sick man must deal out and receive this, without knowing what it is designed to do. But, "the Doctor knows."

In company with a Doctor, not long since, I asked him why the new Pharmacopæia was written in such a manner. He replied, "I suppose it was done to prevent the apothecaries from giving prescriptions."

A CURIOSITY.

An American Doctor, writes a prescription in latin; an American who knows no language but his own, carries it to an American apothecary, who gives medicine for an American sick man, who knows only American language. What is the difference between law in latin, religion in latin, or medicine prescribed in latin? If much called medicine, was written in our language, I believe but little now used would be received by the sick.

MERCURY.

As it is our design to give some account of the variety of minerals, which are used for the sick, under the name of medicine, we shall begin with what some consider the king of minerals, viz. MERCURY; and shall take a description of its destructive properties from such authors as recommend it as a medicine for the sick.

The following is from Dr. Thacher's Dispensatory, page 232. The latin name is HYDRARGYRUM. Argentum Vivum. Mercury or Quicksilver."

"Mercury is sometimes found in a native state in the bowels of the earth. Mercury taken into the stomach, in its metallic state, has no action on the body, except what arises from its weight and bulk. Dioscorides, Pliny, and even Galen, considered it as highly corrosive, and classed it among the poisons.

"In the year 1497, this metal was introduced as a sovereign remedy in lues venerea, and after a warm contention relative to its use, it was received as one of the most valuable articles of the Materia Medica.

"There is nevertheless indubitable evidence that persons who work in the mines, or are otherwise exposed to the fumes of quicksilver, frequently experience its destructive consequences. Among other diseases arising from this cause, Hoffman mentions palsies, apoplexies, epilepsies, hectic fever, &c.—These remarks are corroborated by a recent occurrence which took place on board two vessels, in which, from the fumes of quicksilver, an alarming illness broke out among the crews, all of whom were more or less salivated."

Notwithstanding all these bad things done by mercury, a most fatal poison, the Doctor recommends it as a most excellent medicine.

Calomel is mercury prepared in the following manner: "Take of, muriate of quicksilver, ground to powder in a glass mortar, four ounces. Purified quicksilver, three ounces. Rub them together in a glass mortar, with a little water, to prevent the acrid powder from rising until the quicksilver be extinguished, and having put the powder, after being dried, into an oblong phial, of which it fills one third, sublime from warm sand. After the sublimation is finished, having broken the phial, throw away both the red matter found near the bottom of the phial, and the white matter near its neck, and sublime the rest of the mass. Grind this into a very minute powder, which is, lastly, to be washed with boiling distilled water."

In following numbers, we shall give from the same author, the great variety of mercurial preparations invented for use in sickness, &c.

Grave Robbery.

How melancholy is the thought, that men cannot cease from making gain of each other when they are dead! Traffic in live men sounds harsh, but in the dead it sounds terrible. What must we think of those men who take from the grave, for gain, the peaceful dead, whom weeping friends have left there; not to be disturbed, until "in Christ all shall be made alive"! Let whoever may be the man to take away the dead from the graves, the men called Doctors are considered at the bottom of this kind of robbery. How must the sick father, mother, husband, wife, or child feel, to see one enter the room where they are sick, while this thought passes thro' the mind; perhaps this man who administers to me, may hereafter be the one who shall dissect my body, and expose it to a gazing number of young men, for which he is to receive a reward.

The grief of friends is great, when a relative is dead; but how is that grief heighten-

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ed, if they have occasion to say, when the question is asked, "Why weepest thou?" "They have taken away my child, husband, or wife, and I know not where they have laid him or them!"

It is but a few years, since seven or eight graves were robbed in Chebacco. In Duxbury, or near there, about the same time, a child was taken out of the grave, and it is said that the suspected Doctor quit his country. In Providence, it is said a man found by the side of the grave where his wife had been buried, two screws which he supposed were taken from her coffin. It was taken up, and found empty. It is said that in Boston, a large number of graves have been robbed this present winter.

The Selectmen have directed Watchmen to guard the burying ground on the Neck.—*Query.* Would it not be well to set a Watch around the Medical College, to see if any dead bodies are carried there by night?

The following appeared in the *Galaxy* of Friday last:—

"ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS are offered by the Board of Health of this town, for information, which may lead to the conviction of any person guilty of digging up and removing from the graves any dead bodies deposited therein. This most flagrant violation of law as well as feeling and decency has become of late of very frequent occurrence.—A member of the Board of Health informs us that, from twelve to twenty bodies have been thus stolen from the burying ground on the Neck the present winter."

QUESTIONS, to which concise and satisfactory answers are requested, for publication in the *Medical Newspaper*.

1. What are,—*Medical Associations?*
2. What are,—*Medical Societies?*
3. What are,—*Medical Lectures?*
4. What are,—*Medical Hospitals?*
5. What are,—*Infirmaries?*
6. What are,—*Dispensaries?*
7. What is,—*The Magdalen Hospital?*
8. What are, *Empyries, Mountebanks, and Quicks?*
9. Is that good for a sick man, that will kill one that is well?
10. What is, a wine puke?
11. What is the difference between *'opium,' 'laudanum,'* and *'purgative'?*
12. Who are the best calculated to administer medicine to the sick?

NOTICE.

Subscribers for this Paper, and others, are informed, that from the first Tuesday in March next, it will be published every other week, according to the original proposal.

Editor.

Doctors in Boston.

There are at this time residing in Boston, according to the Directory, fifty-nine Doctors, fifty-five of them belong to the "Medical Society."

The deaths in Boston, in 1820, were, according to the report of the Board of Health, eleven hundred and three. One hundred and eighty-seven of them the disease unknown. *Query.* Who attended this last number? Men acquainted with diseases, or not?

The Deaths in the year 1821, are given in the following words, in the *Statesman* of the 14th ult.

"The Deaths in Boston, in the year 1821, according to the report of the Board of Health, were 1420. Of this number 149 were of the measles. In the above number are included 116 still-born children, and 535 children under ten years of age."

Conditions of this Paper.

1. To be published on a half sheet, (demy paper) every other Tuesday, (twenty-six numbers to make a volume) at one dollar per year, paid in advance.
2. Those who subscribe, or are accountable for seven volumes, to receive one free.
3. Postage paid by subscribers, and papers forwarded to any part of the United States.
4. To contain things judged useful as to medicine, to expose the bad effects of poison on the human system; to receive and communicate such information concerning doctors, quacks, &c. as shall be judged useful to our fellow citizens in general.

Political and religious subjects will be introduced, when in connexion with diseases, medicine and physicians.

As this is a kind of News paper, perhaps never before proposed to the public, it is hoped that the Editor will find a sufficient number of subscribers to encourage the work.

Subscriptions to be returned to E. Smith, No. 56, Middle-street, Boston, as soon as it is ascertained what number can be obtained.

Thirteen Cautions to the sick and healthy.

1. Be careful of cooling suddenly after any uncommon exercise.
2. Be careful of drinking cold water in very warm weather.
3. Avoid in hot weather, soda water, ice punch, and all mineral drinks in summer and winter; and the immoderate use of all ardent spirits.—Remember what makes a well man sick, and cause a strong man to fall, will never make a sick man well, nor raise up a man that has fallen to the ground.
4. Beware of blistering and bleeding; remember a blister is a burn,

and if a natural burn is bad, an artificial one is worse. Remember that the method used to kill an animal (by bleeding) is not a rational way of curing a sick man.

5. Be careful to eat fresh meat in winter, and salt in the summer; as many diseases are caused by eating meat almost tainted.

6. Avoid all minerals for drink or medicines, such as mercury, arsenic, calomel, nitre, lead, tin, antimony, brass, silver, gold, iron, &c.

7. Avoid all vegetable poisons, such as opium, sicutia (or garden hemlock) apple peru, foxglove, tobacco, night-shade; all these things are injurious to men.

8. By all means avoid *anguinum*, which is mercury and hogs fat ground together, and is very injurious to health. Do not take nitre by the name of tincture of nitre, sweet nitre, spirits of nitre, &c. nor put it on meat, it is a most deadly poison.

9. Shun a certain preparation called the spirits of lavender, it is arsenic and lavender, a poison.

10. Never use what is called red precipitate, which is a preparation of mercury, and injurious to health, if applied inwardly or on the outside.

11. Let whatever may be your sickness, never consent to have your head shaved and blistered; it shut the pores, raises the heat on the outside, turns the cold to the brain, and commonly brings on delirium and death.

12. Whenever you bathe in water, be careful not to go in very warm, nor to stay in too long.

13. Be careful not to eat too much at a time, and (if possible) avoid long abstinence.

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